

RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT

Preliminary Catch Summary

National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Sea Scallop Survey

Cape Hatteras - Georges Bank
July 1 - September 5, 2003

The following field notes, charts, and station data indicate the distribution of sea scallops during the 2003 summer sea scallop survey conducted aboard the *FRV ALBATROSS IV*. Fifteen-minute tows were made at a speed of 3.8 knots using a standard 8-foot New Bedford type scallop dredge. The dredge was equipped with a 2-inch ring chain bag and lined with 1-1/2 inch mesh webbing to retain small scallops. For statistical purposes, stations were randomly selected and therefore were not always on or near scallop concentrations.

In this report, scallop catch is reported in numbers and by-catch is recorded in bushels, depth in fathoms and bottom temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. Bottom temperature is included at selected stations because it is an environmental factor which influences sea scallop growth rates and spawning time. Catches are reported in three categories of shell height: less than or equal to 90mm (greater than 40 count), greater than 90mm (less than 40 count), and greater than or equal to 100mm (less than 30 count). The percent composition of by-catch is also given.

The data are now summarized from audited catch files generated from the Fisheries Scientific Computer System (FSCS).

For further information contact Russell Brown (508-495-2380) or Linda Despres (508-495-2346), National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543. To view this report on the Ecosystems Surveys Branch website, go to:
http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/esb/Resource_Survey_Reports.htm